

REMARKS

Currently claims 1-2, 5 and 8-25 are pending. Claims 17-20 are presently withdrawn. By this Amendment, claims 1-2, 5, 8-16 and 21 have been amended. Claims 3-4 and 6-7 have been canceled, and new claims 22-25 have been added. In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration of the outstanding rejections are respectfully requested.

I. PTO Form 1449

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner in charge initial and return a copy of the 1449 originally filed with this Application on March 2, 2005, to complete the record copy of the application held by Applicants' representative.

II. Claim Objections – Improper Multiple Dependent Claims

The pending claims, to include claims 4-16 and 21 as well as the following claims, for example, claims 5 and 10-14, as well as claims 7, 9 and 15 have been appropriately amended to remove any improper multiple dependent claim recitation. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully indicate that all claims are presently in proper conformance with both multiple and/or single dependent claim form, and respectfully request full examination on their merits.

III. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner rejects claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. That is to say that the Examiner indicates that the limitation “said n-field data structure” in line 4 suffers from improper antecedent basis as it pertains to claim 1. Applicants respectfully indicate that this rejection is rendered moot by the cancellation of claim 3.

IV. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 101

The Examiner rejects claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, and in light of the foregoing amendments, clearly have recited sufficient structure to clearly define statutory subject matter. As such, Applicants appreciate the consideration given to the original claim set with the detailed distinction concerning what may and may not be considered

statutory subject matter, and have carefully crafted the above amendments to, for example, independent claim 1, to appropriately recite statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

V. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,044,217 to Brealey et al. (hereinafter “Brealey”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In view of the above amendments, it is respectfully indicated that Brealey is related to a metadata repository for use in integrated development of environment. The metadata repository is layered to define what levels of common behavior useful to different types of application development tools (Abstract). Further, Brealey discloses an open data model that produces source code or the common intermediate form accessible and extensible by all development tools that wish to work with a program (column 2, lines 59-61). Thus, Brealey provides a hierarchical structure related to behavior.

In contrast to the present invention which provides an efficient and general way of describing, handling and searching among independent information objects, potentially originating from different information sources or systems, and also describing relations between such objects (paragraph 0013). As respectfully understood, the corresponding limitations as defined by the amended independent claims, for example, are clearly not disclosed in Brealey.

Thus, since Brealey fails to disclose describing, handling or searching among independent information objects, Brealey fails to disclose or even render obvious the claimed invention as defined at least by the amended independent claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3 under § 102(b) with regards to Brealey.

VI. Conclusion

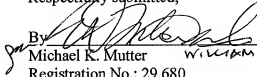
In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact William D. Titcomb Reg. No. 58,755 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: November 10, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By  ^{11/10/08}
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